and earthquake experts and serious doubts voiced about the benefits likely to yield from the project; and

(b) if so, what are the estimated irrigational and power generation benefits likely to be achieved from the project on its completion as compared to (i) the estimated loss of standing forests; (ii) estimated expenditure on the re-settlement of the people that would be uprooted; (iii) estimated submergence of cultivable land; and (iv) the estimated expenditure to be incurred in the execution of the project including the cost escalation due to time factor in its completion?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Narmada Sagar and Sardar Sarovar Projects have been cleared from environmental angle.

(b) The projects estimated to cost about Rs. 7600 crores envisages irrigation to 20 lakh hectares and will have 2450 MW installed capacity. They are likely to submerge about 52 thousand hectares of forest land and 56 thousand hectares of cultivable land. The likely cost of resettlement of the people is about Rs. 370 crores.

Central allocation to Rajasthan for Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme

687. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the comparative percentage of decline in the Central allocation to the State Government of Rajasthan under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme since 1983-84 till date; and

(b) what are the reasons for the decline in the Central allocation when the State of Rajasthan is in the grip of drought conditions and is facing acute water scracity for the fourth successive year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAMANAND YADAV): (a) and (b) Provision of drinking water to rural areas is a State subject. Government of India only supplements their efforts by giving technical and financial assistance to States under the Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARSWP). State Governments make provisions for the programme under the State sector Minimum Needs Programme (MNP). The following table shows the comparative provisions made under MNP and ARSWP since 1983-84;

Funds made available for rural water supply in Rajasthan

(In lakhs)

Year	State-MNP	Centrally Sponsored ARSWP
1983-84	1881·00	4133·83
1984-85	1075·00	3863·83
1985-86	1100·00	2732·00
1986-87	1600·00	2700·00
1987-88	2380·00	819·00 (First instalment.)

While there has been a decline in the ARSWP releases from 1983-84 onwards, Central funds made available have always been significantly higher than funds mobilised by the State Government for this crucial sector. It was decided by the Government that from 1985-86 allocation of Central assistance under ARSWP will not exceed the provision under State sector MNP. This is the main reason for decline in the Central assistance vis-a-vis amount released in 1983-84 and 1984-85. However, ad hoc additional assistance of Rs. 1632.0 lakhs in 1985-86 and Rs. 1100.00 lakhs in 1986-87 was given to the State Government over and above their normal entitlement.

Drought situation in Rajasthan

688. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what percentage of entire population in Rajasthan has been